

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 IGA-02 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02

TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 /082 W

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R 122100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2295

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

DEA HDQS WASHDC

HEW WASHDC

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LIMA FOR AMB. VANCE; HEW FOR NIDA DIRECTOR DR. DUPONT;

DEA FOR EOI CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: DR. DUPONT'S CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

1. DR. ROBERT DUPONT, COL. RICHARD BUCKER, AND EMBASSY
NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ALBERTI MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL
OJEDA PAULLADA, DR. GUIDO BELSASSO AND DR. ALEJANDRO GERTZ
ON JANUARY 6, 1976. THE CONVERSATION BEGAN WITH THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL REFERRING TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI'S
DECEMBER 29 REMARK THAT THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC IN THE U.S.
THREATENED TO BECOME WORSE THAN EVER, AND WAS PRODUCING GRAVE
CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES. OJEDA ASKED DR.
DUPONT TO DESCRIBE THE EXTENT OF THE PRESENT HEROIN EPIDEMIC.
DR. DUPONT SAID THAT BASED ON DATA OBTAINED FROM OVER-
DOSE DEATHS, HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND THE INCREASED CRIME RATE,
HE BELIEVED THAT THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC AT PRESENT
WAS WORSE THAN AT ANY TIME BEFORE IN HISTORY.
HE EMPAHSIZED THAT IN THIS ELECTION YEAR BOTH GOVERN-
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MENTS RUN A VERY SERIOUS RISK OF STRONG POLITICAL

REACTION IF THE AVAILABILITY OF MEXICAN HEROIN IN THE U.S. IS NOT DIMINISHED BY THIS COMING SUMMER.

2. OJEDA REPLIED THAT THE INTENSIFIED PHASE OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, WHICH BEGAN IN MID-NOVEMBER, GOT UNDERWAY GRADUALLY AND THAT SOME POPPIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN HARVESTED BUT THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS

PROCEEDING WELL AND WITH THE ADVENT OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT DUE THIS MONTH, IT SHOULD BE A GOOD SUCCESS. (DR. DUPONT NOTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN DELAYS IN EQUIPMENT DELIVERY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT OPT TO USE HERBICIDES UNTIL NEARLY MID-NOVEMBER, WHEREUPON THE SPRAYING EQUIPMENT WAS ORDERED FORTHWITH).

3. OJEDA NOTED THAT IN MID-NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE INITIATION OF THE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN, BOTH ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION. FOLLOWING THAT, ON DECEMBER 26, PRESIDENT FORD THEN MADE HIS STATEMENTS EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE MEXICAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND THE INCIDENCE OF MEXICAN HEROIN IN THE U.S. THIS, OJEDA SAID, CAUSED CONSIDERABLE BEWILDERMENT ON THE PART OF MANY MEXICANS FOR IF IN MID-NOVEMBER THE CAMPAIGN WAS THOUGHT TO BE GOING WELL, THEN WHY WAS IT FELT NECESSARY TO ISSUE THE DECEMBER 26 STATEMENT? DR. DUPONT REPLIED THAT UNTIL A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE U.S. SUPPLY OF MEXICAN HEROIN IS EFFECTED, WE MAY EXPECT THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY HIGH USG OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE PROBLEM.

4. OJEDA SAID THAT IN GENERAL HE AGREED WITH THE WHITE PAPER ON DRUG ABUSE, BUT HE AGAIN MENTIONED HIS WELL-KNOWN PROBLEM WITH WHAT HE READ TO BE A SOFTENING OF THE U.S. POSITION ON MARIHUANA.

5. DR. DUPONT REPLIED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD KNOW-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEDGE THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE RECOMMENDING AGAINST FEDERAL DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA USE. OJEDA EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HEARING THIS NEWS. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, HEROIN, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO00343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0280
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760166/aaaacgtu.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DR. DUPONT'S CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
TAGS: SNAR, MX, (DUPONT, ROBERT), (ALBERTI), (BUCKER, RICHARD), (BELSASSO, GUIDO), (OJEDA PAULLADA, PEDRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006